

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

Cotton Production Update - October 2018

Report Categories:

Cotton and Products

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Report Highlights:

Post forecasts MY 2018/19 cotton acreage at 12.35 million hectares with a production forecast of 28.1 million 480 lb. bales. Despite a normal Southwest monsoon, cotton crop yields are expected to be lower than last year as long dry spells and persistent pest issues affect the cotton crop in various growing regions. All India cotton yields are estimated at 495 kilograms per hectare.

General Information:

PS&D Table

Cotton	2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019	
Market Begin Year	Aug-16		Aug-17		Aug-18	
India	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Planted	-	-	-	-	-	-
Area Harvested	10,850	10,850	12,400	12,450	12,300	12,350
Beginning Stocks	7,044	7,044	7,880	8,260	8,680	9,260
Production	27,000	27,000	29,000	29,000	28,700	28,100
Imports	2,736	2,736	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500
MY Imports from U.S.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Supply	36,780	36,780	38,580	38,960	38,880	38,860
Exports	4,550	4,520	5,200	5,200	4,400	4,300
Use	24,350	24,000	24,700	24,500	25,500	25,000
Loss	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Dom. Cons.	24,350	24,000	24,700	24,500	25,500	25,000
Ending Stocks	7,880	8,260	8,680	9,260	8,980	9,560
Total Distribution	36,780	36,780	38,580	38,960	38,880	38,860
Stock to Use %	27	29	29	31	30	33
Yield	542	542	509	507	508	495
(1000 HA) ,1000 480 lb. Bales ,(PERCENT) ,(KG/HA)						

MY 2018/19 First GOI Advance Estimates of Area and Production

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MOAFW) published the first advance estimates of area and production in September 2018. The cotton [production](#) is estimated at 25.36 million 480 lb. bales (32.48 million 170 kg bales /5.52 mmt) on an acreage of 12.24 million hectares.

Area

Post estimates the MY 2018/19 cotton planted area at 12.35 million hectares. The Post estimate is based on the updated acreage estimates from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MOAFW). The Post estimate is one percent higher than official Government of India estimates based on prospective late planting of rain-fed cotton in the Southern Indian states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, and Odisha during the Rabi season.

Production

Post estimates the MY 2018/19 production at 28.1 million 480 lb. bales (36 million 170 kg bales/6.1 mmt). The Post estimate is 400,000 480 lb. bales lower than the official USDA estimate. According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the cumulative rainfall for the Southwest Monsoon 2018 (June to September) was nine percent lower than the fifty-year average, and four percent lower than last year's monsoon. The dry weather in the Saurashtra and Kutch region in Gujarat, and Central and Eastern Maharashtra has not aided crop development, and is likely to affect the yields. Post estimates all India yields at 495 kilograms per hectare.

Post estimates the yields in Gujarat to be 10 percent lower than last year. The crop is in the boll development/formation stage. There are reports of pink bollworm and whitefly infestation in major cotton growing districts in the state. The government has issued advisories on using plant protection measures to control sucking pest and pink bollworm infestations. The cotton growing regions of Saurashtra in Gujarat received 34 percent deficit rains, which will significantly affect the crop yields. Similarly, yields in Maharashtra are expected to be lower by 7 percent than last year, as pink bollworm infestations continue to be reported across the state. While the Vidarbha region (Eastern Maharashtra) received 8 percent deficit rains, the Central Maharashtra region had a 22 percent deficit. In Madhya Pradesh, at present the cotton is in the flowering/ boll formation stage. In this stage, it is crucial to maintain moisture levels, so it is important to irrigate the crops frequently so that there will be no shortage. Western Madhya Pradesh received 4 percent lower rains than the normal average.

In the state of Andhra Pradesh, the crop is at the flowering / vegetative state. There are some observations reported on pink bollworm infestation, but these are below the economic threshold levels. Yields in Andhra Pradesh are expected to be marginally lower than last year. In Telangana, the cotton crop is at boll development stage and current weather conditions (high humidity, cloud cover and high temperatures) are conducive for emergence of whitefly and thrips, so farmers are being advised to take plant protection measures. Post estimates the yields in Telangana to be recover from last year, as farmers have taken adequate measures to protect the crop.